

Western Washington Conservation Planning



■ *Habitat conservation plans affect forest management at the landscape scale*



■ *Conservation planning biologists field review HCP implementation*



■ *Federal, State and industry entities discuss marbled murrelet habitat on private lands (photo: Dan E. Varland)*

Conservation, Certainty, and Commitment

Biologists conducting Conservation Planning help non-federal entities develop conservation plans under section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). These plans are needed by anyone seeking an incidental take permit from the federal government. Such a permit allows legal land management activities or other operations to occur even when a threatened or endangered species or its habitat could be affected.

A conservation plan is a negotiated agreement between the permit applicant and the federal government. When implemented, the plan provides for the long term conservation of species that are federally listed as endangered or threatened. Unlisted species may also be covered by the plan.

Anyone who implements an approved conservation plan and receives an incidental take permit gains long term federal assurances that activities addressed by the plan will comply with the ESA. This provides the permittee with the certainty of being able to continue operations, knowing in advance what conservation measures are needed.

Conservation plans can take several years to develop, depending on what area, activities, and species will be covered, as well as the number of stakeholders involved in the process.

Who We Serve

- Small forest landowners
- Industrial timber landowners
- Other private industry
- State land managers
- State natural resource agencies
- City and county water resource management entities
- Tribes
- Public interest groups
- Federal and state legislators
- Other federal agencies
- Other FWS offices

HCPs Being Implemented in Washington State:

**Boise Cascade's
Low Effect HCP
(620 acres)**

**City of Seattle's Cedar River Watershed HCP
(90,546 acres)**

**City of Tacoma's
Tacoma Water HCP
(14,888 acres)**

**Plum Creek Timber Co.'s
Central Cascades HCP
(148,000 acres)**

**Port Blakely's
Robert B. Eddy Tree Farm HCP (10,628 acres)**

**Scofield Corporation's
Northern Spotted Owl HCP
(40 acres)**

**Simpson Timber Company's
NW Operations HCP
(261,575 acres)**

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Wa. Department of Natural Resources' Multi-Species HCP (1.6 million acres)

West Fork Timber Company's Multi-Species HCP (53,527 acres)

Storedahl & Sons, Inc.'s Daybreak Mine HCP (300 acres)

Tagshinny Safe Harbor Agreement and Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (144 acres)

Pesticide Task Force

The Division's toxicologist participates on the technical team of the interagency Pesticide/ESA Technical Task Force. This highly specialized group is charged with determining which pesticides interfere with the survival and recovery of listed fish species. Such information is imperative before conservation plans can be approved that cover any management activities involving the use of pesticides.

Implementation and compliance monitoring

Conservation planning staff are also working closely with the 10 existing permit holders as they implement their approved conservation plans covering over 2.5 million acres throughout western Washington. Implementation responsibilities vary according to the complexities of each plan. Plans that cover multiple species over wide geographic extents require substantial involvement by the staff implementation biologist. Smaller, less complex plans require only periodic involvement. Implementation responsibilities can include reviewing annual monitoring reports, representing the Service on various technical committees, conducting field reviews, and negotiating final conservation measures to replace interim measures.

In addition to implementation responsibilities, staff time has also been dedicated to monitoring compliance of these approved conservation plans. This means that staff conducts field inspections to ensure permit holders are conducting their activities as agreed and that habitat features and amounts agreed to in these approved plans are present on their landscapes. Initial compliance monitoring efforts have mainly focused on the forestry operations of several of the earlier approved plans.

Family Forest HCP

Timber management on non-industrial private forests within 150,000 acres in Lewis County

Dept. of Natural Resources Forests and Fish HCP

Forest practices regulations affecting riparian and aquatic habitats over 10.3 million acres of non-federal forest land

King County Wastewater Treatment Division HCP

Wastewater collection, treatment, and discharge from a 435,200-acre service area within the Puget Sound region

City of Bellingham HCP

Municipal water withdrawal from the Nooksack River

Snohomish County Public Works HCP

Transportation and drainage projects in south Snohomish County

Dept. of Natural Resources Aquatic Lands HCP

Management activities on 2.4 million acres of State owned aquatic lands

Works in Progress

Presently, over 2.5 million acres of forested lands and riparian areas in Washington are being managed under HCPs, providing long term conservation for a wide variety of wildlife and fish species.

In addition, the Division's eight biologists are working on 10 conservation plans in various stages of development. When complete, these plans will provide for species conservation on additional acres in the state. These include:

Teanaway HCP

Forest management on approximately 50,000 acres near Cle Elum in Kittitas County

City of Kent HCP

Clark Springs water supply in King County

Cowlitz Ridge Tree Farm HCP

Forest management on 980 acres in Lewis County

Dungeness River Comprehensive Irrigation District Management Plan

River basin irrigation in Clallam County